

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment today to recognize the life of Samuel C. Grashio, who died this past Sunday in Spokane, Washington, my hometown, and a major part of the Fifth Congressional District of Washington.

Samuel Grashio was a retired Air Force Colonel and was a highly decorated World War II veteran. While many years have passed since that great struggle for peace, we still remember Samuel Grashio's escape from a Japanese prisoner of war camp during the Bataan Death March. He, along with many others, made that very difficult trek and survived. America's spirit was lifted by the courage that Sam and nine other soldiers showed by escaping the prison camp and for evading their captors in enemy territory for so long.

They continued their struggle for many months, alongside friendly Filipino guerillas who fought bravely to make sure that this group of Americans was able to survive.

Family and friends of Samuel Grashio remember him to be a man of great faith, great courage, and great patriotism. America will remember him for being our hero and our strength during World War II.

An article appeared in the Spokane Review newspaper in Spokane after the death of Sam, and quoted in that article was a very close friend of mine, Seaton Daly, Senior, who has been a longtime Spokane lawyer and a great, great friend whose son and I, whose late son and I, were very, very close friends. We went through law school together and practiced law together for years.

Seaton said at the time of Sam's death that this was a great man of faith, Samuel Grashio, and he had as his priorities in life three influences: God, family, and country, in that order. He was a great man of stature in eastern Washington and nationally for his service in World War II, and he cultivated friends like Seaton Daly, Senior, who were lifelong friends, and who grieve as Sam passed away.

Sam Grashio led a wonderful life in service to our country. We certainly wish all of Sam's family well, and all of God's blessings in this time of reflection and mourning for them.

I must say, too often we do not recognize deeply enough those heroes who fought for freedom in World War II and have survived, many in this country, to this day as veterans and as proud veterans, and proud supporters of the freedom that this country so much enjoys.

Sam Grashio was one of those people. It is sad that he has passed away, but it is an honor for our community that he lived as long as he did and was able to enjoy not only the freedom he fought for, but the great, great benefits that this country offers to all of its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I join many others in paying tribute and offering deep sympathy at the death of Samuel Grashio,

as do many, many, in Spokane Washington and the State of Washington.

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, we took the extraordinary action in the last Congress of creating an opportunity for States to provide health insurance to the children of the working poor. As we commemorate October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we should take the opportunity to pass H.R. 1070 to expand Medicaid coverage to screen for breast and cervical cancer.

This bill will provide cancer screening for the mothers and grandmothers of the children that we covered under the child health initiative. These women are the waitresses, the domestic workers, and the farmers' wives who do not have the financial ability to take advantage of preventative cancer screenings.

Their low-paying jobs do not provide them with the insurance coverage that would cover the costs of breast and cervical cancer screenings, but they also make them ineligible for Medicaid. If they were unemployed or on welfare they would be covered by Medicaid, and thus receive the screening services.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot overstate the relationship between cancer screening and early detection. We all know that early detection saves the lives of women who are impacted by breast and cervical cancer. For example, the American Cancer Society estimates that of the 46,000 breast cancer deaths in 1994, 14,000 women, almost one-third, could have been saved with early detection. That means that approximately one in three women died needlessly.

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That is why I fought so hard to convince the National Cancer Institute to maintain the age for mammography at 40 rather than pushing it back to age 50.

I am very pleased that, in 1997, NCI finally, finally agreed to restore their guidelines to the recommended biennial mammograms for women aged 40 to 49. This screening tool definitely needs to be readily available to women in this age group.

In fact, 29,000 women between the age of 40 and 49 are diagnosed with breast cancer every year. Of these 29,000, a disproportionate percentage will be African-American women, minority women. Particularly, black American women have a 25 percent higher mortality rate because their cancer is not detected early enough.

In addition to screening for breast cancer, H.R. 1070 will also provide reimbursement for cervical cancer screenings. Testimony before the Committee on Commerce also confirmed

that cervical cancer is 95 percent treatable and curable if detected in time.

Working poor women are not receiving these screening services simply because they fall between the cracks of being too young for Medicare, not poor enough for Medicaid, and no access to commercial health insurance.

It is not often that we have a chance to save lives simply by improving access to prevention tools. Through the expansion of Medicaid coverage this month, we have that opportunity with H.R. 1070.

I would hope that my colleagues will support the inclusion of the important measure in whatever budget initiatives we enact this session. The working women of this Nation deserves a fighting chance against breast and cervical cancer.

In honor of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, let us give them this chance by enacting H.R. 1070. That is the way to say "thank you" to people like Laura Brown and the Magic Johnson Foundation for all the work that they do.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and we have joined together tonight to urge our colleagues to work with us to increase funding for breast cancer research, treatment, and prevention, and to expand insurance coverage for screening and treatment. Each year, more than 180,000 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in the United States. One in eight women will develop breast cancer in their lifetimes, and it is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in women. Last year, about 46,000 of our grandmothers, mothers, aunts, nieces, sisters, cousins, dear friends, and colleagues died from this devastating disease.

Tonight, I will be receiving the Yetta Rosenbert Humanitarian Service Award from the Gloria Heyison Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. at a special reception to launch Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In 1992, Marc Heyison created the Gloria Heyison Breast Cancer Foundation in love and honor of his mother, a breast cancer survivor. The Foundation also will be raising funds for The Check It Out Program presented by Suburban Hospital, the mobile mammography program at The George Washington University, and other programs that educate the public about the importance of early detection in breast cancer.

I mention this to highlight the role of organizations that advocate on behalf of breast cancer funding and education programs. Without organizations, such as the Gloria Heyison Breast Cancer Foundation, we would not have made the tremendous advances in funding for breast cancer research over the past decade.

Federal funding for breast cancer research totaled \$91 million in 1993; it grew to \$500 million in 1997. However, despite the increases in funding for breast cancer research and prevention in recent years, we still have few options for prevention and treatment. The National Cancer Institute received the highest funding increase of all of the institutes in last year's appropriations bill, and I hope that we will be able to make even greater strides in the Fiscal Year 2000 bill. I particularly thank Chairman John Porter for his leadership in working to bolster our federal investment in biomedical research, including breast cancer

research, as well as the members of his subcommittee.

Earlier this year, Congresswoman NITA LOWEY and I circulated a congressional letter urging the Appropriations National Security Subcommittee to provide \$175 million for the peer-reviewed breast cancer research program at the Department of Defense, a letter co-signed by 225 of our colleagues. The peer-reviewed breast cancer research program has gained a well-deserved reputation for its innovation and efficient use of resources, with over ninety percent of program funds going directly to research grants. We must continue to increase our investment in this important program.

We must also work to better translate new research findings to clinical applications, both through a greater focus on clinical research and through technology transfer. As Chair of the Technology Subcommittee, I have been working to facilitate technology transfer between government agencies and the private sector. Efforts such as the "missiles to mammograms" project between the Public Health Service, the Department of Defense, the intelligence community, and NASA, are critically important in applying new technologies to the fight against breast cancer.

Access to mammography screening is another critical issue. The Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues had a major victory during the last Congress when the Balanced Budget Act included annual coverage for mammography screening under Medicare.

As of last year, the breast and cervical cancer screening program had provided more than 1.2 million breast and cervical cancer screenings, education, and follow-up services for low-income women across the country. While this program has been very successful, we must ensure that efforts are expanded to better reach disadvantaged and minority populations.

As an increasing number of mastectomies and lymph node dissections are performed as outpatient surgery, Congress should ensure that women receive the hospital care and insurance coverage they need. We must hold hearings and pass legislation to require health plans to provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer. Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO and Congresswoman SUE KELLY have each introduced legislation that would provide 48 hours of inpatient care following a mastectomy and 24 hours of inpatient care following a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer. I am a cosponsor and strong supporter of this critical legislation. Women and their doctors—not their insurance companies—should determine whether a shorter stay is sufficient.

These initiatives are just a few of the many important efforts underway to address the critical issue of breast cancer. For as long as I serve in Congress, I will continue to work with my colleagues on programs that will provide fuel for the hopes of patients and scientists alike and move us forward in the battle against breast cancer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS. addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REPORT ON H.R. 3037, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Florida, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-370) on the bill (H.R. 3037) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of the special order I am about to give.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

DEBT FORGIVENESS FOR THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today was a very historic day in this body, and Congress has finished its business at a reasonable time. I wish that many more of my colleagues were in town to hear our special order, because it addresses an issue that came up in our foreign operations bill the other day; and that is the issue of debt forgiveness in the developing world.

In the course of a debate on the legislative bill, an appropriations bill like the foreign operations bill, all we had was an hour on the rule and an hour on the bill, which is the regular order. But because so many Members want to express their support or their opposition to the legislation, the most any of us gets to speak is a few minutes if we are lucky if we are ranking member, or one or two if we are not.

The bill covers a wide range of issues. The foreign operations bill is the bill which funds our diplomatic efforts abroad. The pillars of our foreign policy are promoted in that bill: stopping the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, promoting democratic values, growing our economy through exports, looking out for our national se-

curity, and the assistance that we provide for other countries is in the national interest of the United States.

So this is not about charity. It is about acting in our own self interest. It also, though, taps the well of generosity and concern that the American people have to alleviate poverty in the world and to make the world a safer place, promoting our democratic values, which are universal, so that the world is a safer place in which we can raise our children and our grandchildren.

That brings us to the point of, making the world a safer place means making the world a better place for all of the children of the world. I know my colleagues have heard me say the three most important issues facing this Congress are our children, our children, our children. By that, I mean, not only our children in America, but the fate of children throughout the world. They are affected by the economic well-being of the countries in which they live.

Many of the countries in the Third World, particularly in Africa, some in Latin America, mostly all in the southern hemisphere, have been burdened by debt that has been incurred by previous regimes. For instance, in South Africa, there is a heavy debt load that has been carried over from the apartheid government. Now this new government of the last few years has that burden to carry. How can they succeed with this drag on their economies? That is repeated over and over.

I think we have a responsibility in this area because, during the Cold War, the Soviets and the United States excerpted their influence on the continent of Africa. When the Cold War was over, we up and left, leaving the continent awash in weapons and, in many cases, burdened down by debt.

There is a movement afoot. This is not just a U.S. effort to alleviate this debt, this is an international issue. There is a movement afoot in the religious community. Bishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel Prize winner from South Africa, was well-known to everyone in the world, I believe, a champion of reconciliation in South Africa, is part of something called the Jubilee, Jubilee 2000.

That is an effort to have debt forgiveness in the developing world so that these new emerging democracies can proceed to meet the needs of their people in terms of education and health and the well-being of their people, unburdened by debts, especially those incurred by previous regimes in their countries and not the democratically elected governments that prevail now.

In our foreign operations bill, there had been a request made by President Clinton for several hundred million dollars over a 3-year period to forgive debt in that region. During the debate, it was contended that, oh, forgiving debt in the Third World was just sending checks to these, what did they call them, turbans and tyrants, or something, so that they could then put this